

## William Cocke to Andrew Jackson, April 18, 1797, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### WILLIAM COCKE TO JACKSON.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> William Cocke was U. S. senator 1796–1797 and 1799–1805. His efforts to preserve friendly relations between Jackson and Sevier came to naught. Persons interested in the often discussed question of Jackson's spelling will observe that it was not as bad as William Cocke's, whose family stood high in Virginia, his native state, and who was lawyer, prominent official, and eminent citizen of Tennessee, where he settled at a mature age.

Knoxville, April 18, 1797.

*My dear, Jackson* it is with pleasure I write to you that I have heard of your safe arrival to Cumberland. I have enjoyed my health very well since I see you, and found my family and friends in the like state. I have not as yet seen mr Stewart as he had not returned from visiting his friends when I left Washington Superior Court but I expect to see him shortly when I shall discharge the trust reposed in me by you

I shall now give you a statement of Govournour Seviars Conduct as it relates to you.<sup>2</sup> I met him at mr Hanises with your letter in my Pocket and had not spoak three words to him before he inquireed after you in the most effectionate manner and declared [his] highest approbation of your conduct as the representative of the state of tennessee as well as his Personal esteem for you the friendly trust you have been pleased to repose in me and the great regard I had for dischargeing that trust in the best Possable manner induceed me to decline delivering the letter as I knew you never desired to make any man an enemy who wished to be your friend I am now the more pleaseed with the conduct that

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I persued as I find him every day publickly expressing the same sentiments, from which I conclude he is sorry for his former dislike to you and while I know that you would not submit to be treated Ill by any man I am sattisfied that you would for give an indiscretion or even an Injury when a change of conduct manifested it self towards you in this state of things I have acted according to my best Judgement have never named the subject to any one the Govournour will be in your country in a few days when you will have an oppertunity of seeing him and I expect will publickly a vow that he never ment to Injure your Reputation or feelings hear let me then Observe that friendship with all men is best if it can be had upon Honorable terms. Give my compliments to Mrs Jackson and all Our friends in Cumberland may every Blessing attend you. your real friend

2 For the origin of Jackson's quarrel with Sevier, see Bassett's *Jackson*, I. 55–60, 74.